

ALIX OLSEN
WILL MC
ON THE PRIDE STAGE

LV PFLAG PRESENTS
SPECIAL MOVIE
JUNE 3RD --SEE PAGE 5

VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S
GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 6 NO. 45

JUNE 2003

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1998!

Peace through Pride

1993-2003

Lehigh Valley
Pridefest

JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA TO HEADLINE ON STAGE

Award winning Latin pop star JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA will make his Allentown debut headlining PRIDE OF LEHIGH VALLEY. Estrada is nationally recognized for having his music on the Golden Globe and Emmy award-winning police drama "THE SHIELD" on the FX network. Estrada has been christened by Out Magazine as "the first gay Latin star" and has been hailed by The Advocate as "exquisite Jade." Don't miss him on stage!

MCC SUNDAE SOCIAL

MCCLV will host a "Sundae Social" 7-9 p.m. at the church - visit the church for a tours & ice cream. MCC will have its Pride Day June 22 morning service at 9 am. MCC will not hold its regular evening service on Pride Day.

PA-GALA THANKS

PA-GALA thanks the Theatre Outlet, Sue Sneeringer, the Mexicana Grille, Louie's Restaurant, La Cocina Mexicana and the Federal Grille for helping to make its event in May a big success.

LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS CONCERT

Sat. June 7, The Leigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus and the Treblemakers women's chorus of Westminster Choir College, will be joined by Broadway actress Laurie Gamache, and soloists Buddy Symes (director of the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus, San Jose, CA) and soprano Jackie Dunleavey Boyle for LVGMC's Spring concert.

The concert will be at 8:00 PM at the Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem. Part one of this concert will be a reprise of "Prayers for Bobby." The second half will feature featuring numbers by the chorus and guests. Included will be the world premiere of "I Dream'd in a Dream," an arrangement of Walt Whitman's poem, by LVGMC's artistic director, Jay Kawarsky. Tickets are \$12, Seniors & Students at \$6. Reserve tickets by calling: 610-366-3320.

PRIDE FESTIVAL SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Pride of the Lehigh Valley invites you to come together for Pridefest 2003 on June 22 at Cedar Beach Park in Allentown, PA! This annual outing, from noon to 6:00pm celebrates Eastern PA's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities. The festival features free live entertainment, merchants and artisans, business services and community organizations, a KidSpace activity area for children, and a parade! Interested in more details? Look for complete information on page 2&3.

**PRIDE PARADE WILL
BEGIN AT 11 AM.
PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE.**

ALLYSON HAMM TO BE PARADE GRAND MARSHALL

Pride of the Lehigh Valley is pleased and proud to announce Allyson Hamm as 2003 Pride Parade Grand Marshall! Allyson has worked as a major activist in almost every area of the Lehigh Valley GLBT and multicultural community.

To name just a few of her accomplishments and contributions: She is currently on the Haven and PA-GALA Boards. She is a City Commissioner on the Allentown Human Relations Commission. She was elected with the highest number of votes against her opponents by Lehigh County mainstream Democrat voters to be a State Democratic Committee member. She has organized events or made presentations to MCC, PFLAG, GLORA and GLOSS, she was the President of Pride of the Lehigh Valley for the 2000 and 2001 Pride Festivals. She has done major outreach to other minority communities by helping to organize city sponsored anti-hate workshops, networking breakfasts and banquets. The list goes on and on. Congratulations Allyson from Valley Free Press and the entire community on this recognition of all the wonderful work you have done.

PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS
PA-GALA ENDORSED
31 LV CANDIDATES
25 WON Charles Versaggi, GLBT community candidate, won a Democratic nomination for Allentown School Board. See more on page 6.



PLANET Parenthood

by Carolyn Lewis

THE GET-AWAY

This past weekend, Janet and I took a much-needed vacation from our co-parenting roles. We shipped the kids and the dog off to various and sundry relatives and skipped gleefully out of town to Rehoboth Beach. We were certainly overdue for some time to ourselves. We stayed at the most incredible B&B run by a lovely lesbian couple. I had found it on the web so we were a little skeptical because the last time I found a B&B on the web, it left much to be desired. Among other difficulties, we froze the whole weekend as the owners kept turning off our heat!

Anyway, this place was incredible. It's called The Sea Witch Manor Inn and Spa. It is within walking distance of everything we wanted or needed. (We parked the car when we arrived and didn't touch it again until we left!) We had nothing but positive experiences- from the massages, to the Jacuzzi, to the incredible gourmet breakfasts that held us until dinner. The whole place is filled with antiques and our room, which was incredibly romantic, was no exception. There was no danger of freezing this time as we kept the fireplace going at all times!

So, there we were, having this very romantic getaway weekend in a place that doesn't have a single juice box, toy, or anything kid-sized in sight. And we were loving it! That is, until we took a walk down the boardwalk and realized that we were staring at everybody else's kids! At first, I didn't realize what we were doing. Then, slowly it dawned on me that things like "Aw, isn't she cute" and "How adorable" were coming out of my mouth! We would go into the stores on the boardwalk and realize we were in the children's corner. And, how on earth did we end up in the toy store playing with the glow-in-the-dark goop?

It all culminated in our stop at a coffee house. We ended up talking with two wonderful dads and their two wonderful kids the whole time we were there. We oohed and aahed over their kids. We watched as one of the dads took a picture of their son trying to eat a huge donut covered in sprinkles. I had to stop Janet from taking a picture of him as well, reminding her that he wasn't one of ours! We commiserated about the amount of stuff parents have to carry when traveling with kids. And when we left, I looked around for our giant bag of kid stuff. Of course, it wasn't there.

So, as wonderful as it was to get away for the weekend, it made coming home that much sweeter. The bag of kid stuff doesn't seem as much of a burden anymore.

PRIDE FEST POSTERS, T-SHIRTS, AND HATS

You can support Pridefest by displaying a free festival poster and distributing Pridefest bookmarks. If interested call 610.770.6200. Purchase a 2003 festival souvenir t-shirt and embroidered hat for only \$15.00 ea. at Stonewall, DiamonZ, or at Pride Central, the day of the festival.

INTER-FAITH SPIRITUAL SERVICE

Immediately following the festival, Pride LV and "All Together Now," a GLBT ecumenical task force, are sponsoring an inter-faith spiritual service featuring clergy from area congregations which welcome the GLBT community. Muhlenberg College is hosting the event at Moyer Hall beginning at 6:30pm. Rev. Emily Eastwood will deliver the message. Eastwood is featured in the documentary film that follows the service. The film, sponsored by the Reconciled in Christ congregations of the Lutheran Church, is titled "This Obedience" and outlines the struggles of gay clergy.

TO VOLUNTEER FOR PRIDE FEST - CONTACT PRIDE

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RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey[©]

Dear Denise, My partner recently passed away. We had been together for 14 years. I thought we had done the "correct financial partner safeguards." We had a Will, Power of Attorney and a Living Will. I am devastated and exceptionally overwhelmed in having to face not only the loss of my partner, but the layers of paperwork and decision making involved. I am numb. Nothing could have prepared me for this. I had allowed Jeff to handle all of these issues. He would hand me the papers and tell me to "sign here." At this point, I wish I could do it over again. I wish that I would have listened to him explain the differences in mutual funds, annuities and real estate investment trusts and their surrender fees.

The attorney we used makes me feel foolish. How can I make an educated decision, when the terminology is so foreign? The entire probate process is not only horrendous, but expensive. My tax burden, I am told, will be excessive. Every dime I inherit will be taxed. I have to pay individuals to value his jewelry, his car, the antiques we had purchased together and our home, for instance. We had stored US Savings Bonds and jewelry in a Safety Deposit Box. It's all going thru the probate process. The probate process will cost me about 5% of his share of the assets. How can I help others avoid the same disaster?

Signed, Bereaved

Dear Bereaved, I am very sorry for your loss. We are never prepared for this situation. My thought is to establish a relationship in advance with a competent attorney, accountant or tax preparer and a financial advisor who understands gay estate planning. Everyone should understand the tax ramifications of every investment they own.

Identifying Transfer On Death or "TOD's" on assets which are not jointly owned will avoid probate costs. Income taxes are unavoidable on most assets. The exception being life insurance. Life Insurance has evolved, just like the evolution of gay parenting and adoption. Life Insurance can be a powerful tool in being responsible partners. You need to understand the ramifications of every product you invest in. How will it effect your tax situation today, and down the road? How liquid is the investment?

There is NO "One Way," only "A Way" to deal with your financial situation. As long as the overall picture provided by the professional makes sense, the plan can work.

Completely avoiding taxes or expenses incurred at the passing of a partner, is not possible. Seek advice to understand the ramifications of your decisions. Establish a network of professionals, this does not include co-workers, to help you thru the process. Second opinions are justifiable. Thanks for enlightening others and best of luck to you.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Services, Inc. located at 5000 Tilghman St. Suite 127 in Allentown PA. Please send your questions via e-mail to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information provided may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

KIDSPACE AT PRIDE FEST

Looking for a fun afternoon to share with the children in your life? KidSpace at Pridefest is offering a make and take craft from noon-6pm , a special appearance from everyone's favorite Parisian pal Madeline from 12 - 1:30pm compliments of Barnes and Noble, and a special performance by The Underworld Art Studio's own Trash Can Orchestra at 2:30pm.

HEALTH

FREE HIV Testing and mammography referrals provided by the Allentown Health Bureau from noon to 6pm.

PRIDE GUIDE

Don't forget to pick up your FREE copy of this year's Pride Guide.

HOT NEWS

B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB

The Barnes and Noble selection for the Gay and Lesbian book discussion group for Tuesday, June 17 at 7:00pm is: "Strangers on a Train," by Patricia Highsmith. The group meets at the Whitehall store. All are welcome.

FACT PICNIC

FACT's Picnic at South Mountain Grove will be on July 27. Held under South Mountain Grove's large pavilion, there will be music and games of chance. Food, soda and beer provided. Rain or shine. As always, all money raised goes to people affected or infected with HIV/AIDS. For more information on this and any upcoming events go to FACT's web site at FACTLV.org.

GLORA SCHEDULE

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown is a social group that holds various events in the community.

GLORA Backyard cookout at Trish and Liz's house in Allentown. Begins 3 PM Saturday, July 19. Hamburgers and hot dogs provided, bring your favorite beverage and a side dish or dessert to share. Arcade pinball and Ms. PacMan tournaments, with prizes, and a possible round of Cranium will be a feature. Children welcome. No pets please. Contact GLORA or call Liz & Trish for address and directions to this event. L&T: 610-432-5449. (Also see camping article.)

GLORA encourages anyone who's willing to host or plan an event to contact the group. Events can be as simple as going to a movie, on a hike or playing a round of miniature golf. For more information, directions or if you would like to plan an event, please contact GLORA at GLORAINPA@aol.com or write: GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541.

GLSEN MEETING

The Gay, Lesbian & Straight Education Network meets the 2nd Monday of each month at Muhlenberg College, Seager's Student Union -rms 108-109. Contact info: Carol Barron, 610.867.6641 or lvdukefan@aol.com

19TH ST. FILM SCHEDULE

After May 17, the 19th Street Film Series goes on hiatus for the Civic Theatre comedy SCHOOL FOR SCANDAL . The film series will return June 22 with BRAND NEW PROJECTORS AND SOUND! For info on those films see the next VFP, or log onto: <http://www.civictheatre.com/projector>

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STEVIE Z SCHEDULE

StevieZ will be appearing at the Stonewall-MooseLounge on the following Fridays: June 13, July 11, and August 15. For April/May the recipient of half of all StevieZ's tips was FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together). Stevie is also the accompanist for the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus concert on June 7.

NO PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL

For the first time in eight years there will be no Pride Film Festival associated with the Leigh Valley Pride Festival. Other film themed events may take place later in the year.

PA-GALA ENDORSES HOWARD DEAN

At the "Meet the Candidates" party at Theatre Outlet in May, PA-GALA Coordinator Liz Bradbury announced that PA-GALA has made an early endorsement of Howard Dean for President. Howard Dean (D) is by far the most pro-gay candidate to ever run for US President. PA-GALA will be working on voter identification and registration in the upcoming year. PA-GALA Political Director Steve Black will be heading this Lehigh Valley effort. Those interested in getting involved in the campaign for Howard Dean contact Steve at <smblack@epix.net>.

COMMUNITY MOURNS ANN D. SCHULTZ

Ann D. Schultz, of Breiningsville, died May 25, in Lehigh Valley Hospital. She was a member of the Metropolitan Community Church, and a strong supporter of environmental and animal rights issues. Services were May 29, at Stephens Funeral Home.

GLORA & MCC CAMPING

When: Friday July 11 thru Sunday July 13. Where: Oneida Camp & Lodge, New Milford, PA - off Route 81. Cost: \$40 per person. In what: Tents and pop-up trailers welcome (we don't know how big a trailer can get in there). Attractions: Swimming, Disco, hiking, relaxing, modern toilets and showers, fire rings, usually there is a Sat. evening show at the camp stage, and games (bring board games), singing and stories around the campfire. Food: Assignments will be shared. Please RSVP by July 7 (max 20 persons) <steven.olofson@verizon.net>

ACCO

ACCO, A Chorus Celebrating Women, continues their 10th Anniversary Season celebrating their roots in women's music at: Godfrey Daniels Coffeehouse, 7 East Fourth Street, Bethlehem, Friday, June 13, 8 p.m. \$13.50 610-867-2390

HAVEN GLBT YOUTH

There's lots of excitement at HAVEN. Besides attending the weekly Wed. night meetings at UUCLV, a small group of HAVEN members recently went to Boston GLBT Youth Pride, where they marched & attended a Gay Prom. They are looking forward to marching in the Lehigh Valley GLBT Pride parade. The youth came up with the theme "Taste Our Rainbow" & plan to hand out rainbow lollipops while dancing joyously down the street. They are also planning a photo exhibit for their booth at the Pride festival. Stop by & have a look. For Haven contact info see page 4.

And The Queerstock CD is OUT! This fabulous CD benefits Haven. It's a double CD compilation of 30 tracks comprised of today's hottest up and coming OUT artists and our community's Queer music pioneers. \$20/each To purchase, contact Constante at <ckristofik@hotmail.com>.

2003 LV PRIDE PARADE - BEGINS AT 11AM!

All are invited to join the Lehigh Valley Pride Parade. For the second year in a row the parade is marching from 10th Street down Hamilton to the Cedar Beach festival grounds to kick off the festival! You, a group of friends, your organization or your decorated vehicle can join the parade by simply filling out an application found at www.pridelv.org and mailing it to the Pride LV post office box. Come and compete for one of three awards that include the best in show, spirit, and pride - King's Choice, Queen's Choice and the President's Choice.

PRIDE FESTIVAL

2003 Lehigh Valley Pridefest Entertainment - Pride has gathered a dynamic collection of performances and entertainers for this year's Pridefest Main Stage. On the other side of the festival grounds local drag illusionists, musical and performance artists will be highlighted from 2:30 - 5:30pm at the Showcase Cabaret stage.

2003 Master of Ceremonies: Alix Olson, Spoken Word Artist

Headlining The Main Stage: Jade Estaban Estrada, Latin Pop Star Sensation

Some of the Entertainers: Girlyman -- Delicious Acoustic Gender Pop, Crave -- Hot Melodic Pop, The Meat Joy -- Minimalist Punk Rock with Soul To Spare, Commonbond -- Eclectic Bend of Blues-Edged Folk/Rock

CALENDAR⁴

ACCO-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA
610.435.8424

AIDSWALK- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley -
610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lv aids
ASC-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

BMA- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and
Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

B&N- Barnes and Noble Gay & Lesbian Book
Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

BEARS.-1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the
StoneWall, Moose Lounge 610-814-
6916, Mtnbear@fast.net.

CIVIC and 19th St. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-
432-8943, <civictheater.com>

Enigma Players--qacres@prolog.net
equal@agere-email: equal@agere.com

FACT- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together
610.820.5519

GLEE at Air Products

GLISN- at Dun & Bradstreet,
<vagrannahollow.com/GLISN/>

GLORA- Gay and Lesbian Organization
of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings,
various dates) Newsletter- The Tassel. Write to:
GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-
0541, email-GLORAirPA@AOL.COM

GLOSS - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports
Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002
610.434.2966.

GLOW- at PPL

GLSEN-Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education
Network, 610-867-6641, csbaron21@aol.com
Meetings, at 7:00 pm in rooms 108-109 of the
Seeger Student Union, Muhlenberg College

GMLV- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd
Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800

HAVEN GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV-
call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup
@hotmail.com or zinnes@fast.net

HMFF-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship,
Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931
Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

Integrity- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family
& Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642
gamba.guy@verizon.net"

KS-Kindred Spirits- Support, discussion, and
social group for lesbians and bisexual women
Contact: Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at
610.997.00607

LVGMG -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus,
email: info@lvrgmc.org, <www.lvrgmc.org>
610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United

Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem

MCC - Metropolitan Community Church,
Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street,
Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclelly
valley@yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-
709-8800

NCC- Northampton Community College GLB
Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-
2531

19th St/Civic Theatre - 610.432.8943

Out There- Students at Cedar Crest College
OVOM-LV Documentary Film Org.

PA-GALA - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for
Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, &
Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20
to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002
610.432.5449 pa-gala.org

PFLAG - LV Parents Families & Friends of
Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church
Allentown 610.967.5219
<HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>

Pride- Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival)
610.770.6200, email: <lpvpride@hotmail.com>,
<www.pridely.org>

QuEST - Student group at Lafayette College
Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA,
<QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

JUNE 2003 GLBT PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	2 RAA GLSEN	3 LV PFLAG LVGMG GLOSS	4 HAVEN PFLAG M MCC yoga	5 TO artist RAA ACCO GLOSS	6 7Senses School For Scandal →	7 GAY MENS CHORUS CONCERT
8 School Fog Scandal UUCLV MCC GLOSS	9 RAA GLSEN	10 LVGMG School For Scandal GLOSS	11 HAVEN School For Scandal MCC yoga	12 School For Scandal RAA ACCO GLOSS	13 ACCO KS StevieZ	14 GLOSS WDIY
15 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	16 RAA	17 SPARC GLOSS LVGMG	18 MCC yoga HAVEN	19 ACCO PFLAG P RAA GLOSS	20 KS	21 MCC WDIY Play GLOSS
LV PRIDE FESTIVAL LV PRIDE PARADE Social	23 RAA	24 LVGMG GLOSS	25 HAVEN MCC yoga	26 ACCO GLOSS RAA	27 KS	28 GLOSS WDIY
29 MCC to NYC PRIDE PARADE	30 RAA				StevieZ	

JULY 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 GLOSS LVGMG LV PFLAG	2 HAVEN PFLAG M	3 RAA	4	5 WDIY 7Senses GLOSS BEARS
6 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC	7 RAA	8 GLOSS MCC LVGMG	9 HAVEN	10 GLOSS RAA	11 GLORA & MCC KS Camping	12 WDIY GLOSS
13 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC	14 RAA	15 LVGMG GLOSS PFLAG R B&N BOOKCLUB	16 HAVEN	17 RAA GLOSS PFLAG P	18 KS StevieZ	19 WDIY GLOSS GLORA COOKOUT
20 MCC WDIY HMFF	21 RAA	22 GLOSS LVGMG MCC	23 HAVEN	24 RAA GLOSS	25 KS	26 WDIY GLOSS
27 FACT WDIY PICNIC MCC HMFF	28 RAA	29 GLOSS LVGMG	30 HAVEN	31 RAA GLOSS		

AUGUST 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 WDIY BEARS GLOSS
3 HMFF UUCLV MCC GLOSS	4 RAA	5 LVGMG GLOSS LV PFLAG	6 HAVEN PFLAG M MCC yoga	7 RAA ACCO GLOSS	8 KS	9 WDIY GLOSS
10 MCC UUCLV GLOSS	11 RAA GLSEN	12 GLOSS LVGMG	13 MCC yoga HAVEN	14 ACCO GLOSS RAA	15 StevieZ KS	16 WDIY GLOSS
17 MFF UUCLV GLOSS	18 RAA	19 PFLAG R B&N BOOKCLUB	20 HAVEN MCC yoga	21 ACCO RAA GLOSS	22 KS	23 GLOSS WDIY
24 HMFF UUCLV GLOSS	25 RAA	26 MCC LVGMG GLOSS	27 MCC yoga HAVEN	28 RAA GLOSS ACCO	29 KS	30 GLOSS WDIY

Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Atown.
Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., P.O.Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-0530/0531

Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244

Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533 or 670.8029

Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973

Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587

Softball-(Women's) call Diamondz, 610.865.1028
Spectrum- at Lehigh Univ. 610.758.5973

T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.

Unity-26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417

UUCLV - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.

VFP - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com

YVH - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

WDIY - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 pm Saturday 7:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG - 1ST THURSDAYS
READING PFLAG - 3RD TUESDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG
- 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL - TUESDAYS
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL - TUES & SATS
MCC BOOK STUDY 2ND & 4TH TUES
KINDRED SPIRITS
- ALL FRIDAYS EXCEPT THE 1ST

JUNE 3 - PFLAG-LV ALLENTOWN
"GEORGIE GIRL" PREVIEW
JUNE 4 - PFLAG-MONROE
JUNE 5 - ARTIST RECEPTION @ TO

JUNE 6 - DRUM CIRCLE 7 SENSES
JUNE 6-21 - SCHOOL FOR

SCANDAL

@ CIVIC

JUNE 7 - GAY MEN'S CHORUS
JUNE 13 - ACCO @ GODFREY

DANIELS

JUNE 13 - STEVIEZ @

MOOSELOUNGE

JUNE 15&17 - SPARC TRAINING

JUNE 17 - B&N GLBT BOOKCLUB

JUNE 21 - MCC "JUDY AND ME"

JUNE 22 - LV PRIDE PARADE

AND FESTIVAL

JUNE 22 - INTERFAITH SERVICE

JUNE 22 - "SUNDAE SOCIAL" @

MCC

JUNE 29 MCC BUS TO NYC PRIDE

JULY 1 - PFLAG-LV ALLENTOWN

JULY 2 - PFLAG-MONROE

JULY 5 - LABYRINTH WALK 7

SENSES

JULY 11-13 GLORA/MCC CAMPING

JULY 11 - STEVIEZ @

MOOSELOUNGE

JULY 19 - GLORA COOKOUT

JULY 27 - FACT PICNIC

AUG 15 - STEVIEZ @

MOOSELOUNGE

INFORMATION SUBJECT TO

CHANGE CALL TO CONFIRM!

TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449

EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM

MCC PRESENTS JUDY & ME

The Metropolitan Community Church LV is bringing the New York play, "Judy and Me" to the church on Saturday night, June 21 at 8pm. The ticket price is \$20.00 per person.

The play deals with a gay teenager coming to terms with his sexuality through the music of Judy Garland. The message delivered is POWERFUL and notto be missed.

MCC BUS TRIP TO NYC PRIDE

The MCCLV Fellowship Team will be chartering a bus to New York City for the Gay Pride Parade on Sunday, June 29. The bus will depart from the church at 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown at 9am and will later depart from New York City at 8pm to return to the LV. The ticket price is \$20.00 per person. For more information on these events please contact MCCLV at 610-709-8800.

VFP PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Submissions for June Pride Festival issue - covers July 2003, deadline: Saturday, June 14.

Submissions for combined August-September Issue 2003, deadline: Monday, July 21.

Submissions for October 2003, deadline: Sunday, September 21.

Submissions for November 2003, deadline: Tuesday, October 21.

LV PFLAG

Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Lehigh Valley meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00pm at the Allentown First Presbyterian Church, Cedar Crest Blvd. and Tilghman Street. For meeting dates of other area PFLAG chapters, see page 4. For more info call: 610-967-5219.

PFLAG PRESENTS MOVIE

"Georgie Girl", by Annie Goldson and Peter Wells, will be broadcast on PBS stations on June 20, at 10 pm (check local listings). But LV PFLAG will be sneak previewing it at the Tues. June 3 meeting.

Formerly George Beyer, one-time prostitute-turned-politician Georgina Beyer, was elected to New Zealand's Parliament in 1999, becoming the world's first transsexual to hold a national office. Amazingly, a mostly white, conservative, rural constituency voted this former sex worker of Maori descent into office. Don't miss this special presentation.

MONROE COUNTY PFLAG

PFLAG Monroe County and the Monroe County Strategic Planning Committee will be announcing that the Eastern Monroe Public Library will be opening a GLBT Studies section as of December 2003. Congratulations Monroe PFLAG!

RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

WELCOME TO PRIDE MONTH 2003

Random Thoughts: #1 Bush declares "We Won The War!!" Because he said so, that's how! Why then did we go on Orange Alert today? Who's gonna tell us when the next war is over? Should I return the yards of plastic and miles of duct tape I bought at Home Depot (aka The Lesbian 7-11)? And will I need the receipt? Cheers to Susan Sarandon (luv her!), Tim Robbins, The Dixie Chicks, George Clooney and others who use their celebrity to raise awareness and ask the questions Bush still hasn't answered.

#2 How big an idiot does one have to be to attempt a connection between sexual relations between two consenting adults in the privacy of their own home and incest or pedophilia?! What kind of state would allow a moron like that to represent them.... oh... hmm...next subject.

#3 To paraphrase the old Connie Francis song, "Where are the Boys?" Sure Queer as Folk is a cable hit and Will & Jack woke up in bed together on the season finale. But boys, that's fiction. With the exception of George Michael (getting caught with his pants down-couldn't resist) and Nathan Lane (he was the last to know), in real life the girls have lead the movement for acceptance and tolerance. In the past decade Ellen, Melissa, kd, Martina and Rosie, to name a few, have blown the closet door off and come out, loud and proud. So, either there are NO gay men in hollywood, or.....there really is no way to finish that ridiculous statement. Instead of trying, I suggest we go on an **outing**.

#4 After flashing your boarding passes and buckling in, please extinguish all non-recreational smokes. Our driver: Tom Cruise,'cuz he knows all the hot spots. No video cameras. His ego bruises and he sues easily. Over to the right! Look quickly before it passes by! It's Pee-Wee's Playhouse, owned and operated by man-child Paul Reubens. "Come out Pee-Wee! Wanna grab a matinee?" Around the next corner are two lovely homes on either side of the street, both owned by Sean Hayes. Think about it. As we approach Neverland I ponder how do we give Michael Jackson back -- to the straights? And is Justin going to wait until he is washed up and living in his own delusional theme park before he comes out? We will conclude this trip in a later article.

#5 At this time I would like to come out for both Colin Farrell and Ashton Kutcher. Because what they did to me in my dreams the other night no (sober) straight men would do. So, thanks to them (for the sex) and to my boyfriend for understanding (my psychosis).

Of interest- Look for the in depth Trans articles in the new issues of Teen People and Glamour. I kid you not! Also, check out the not-so-subtle gay themes of X-Men 2 and Bend it Like Beckham. For you not living it, Sex & the City returns next month. Peace, Love & Health (& lots of cosmos!!) during this Pride Month. Till next time-Smooches!!!

What's That About?

Readers write or email
"What's That About"
editors with questions
about gay and lesbian issues.

6

SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



A NIGHT OUT WITH SCOTT

Come see The School for Scandal, the final production of Civic Theatre's 2002-2003 season. Before you start thinking you are going to see Monica Lewinsky teaching a civics lesson, let me tell you about this play. School for Scandal concerns hypocrites and libertines, rumors and lies, gossips, and backstabbers. But before you say this sounds like a typical Saturday night out to me, there's more!

The characters include two brothers, one who for all the world appears honest and virtuous, is actually corrupt and deceitful. The younger brother is a playboy, but he makes no excuses for being a rogue. There is an uncle returning from many years abroad, a middle-aged guardian and his pretty wife, a young woman with a fortune, a gang of drinking buddies, dandies and meddling ladies who intrigue like nobody's business. There is also a wonderful servant played by a brilliant local actor. (Read: me.)

Come see this very contemporary two hundred year old play. The show runs from June 6 through June 21 and the box office is currently taking reservations at 610-432-8943.

PA-GALA ENDORSED CANDIDATES - PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS

PA-GALA endorsed 31 candidates in the Lehigh Valley Primary election, 25 of those candidates won their party's nominations. One significant race won by PA-GALA votes was PA-GALA endorsed candidate Patti Engler for Allentown District Justice. Many will remember Patti spontaneously speaking in favor of the anti-discrimination ordinance at the City Council meeting last year. She easily won the Republican nomination, but as a crossfaded candidate also captured the Democratic nomination by 32 votes. PA-GALA has at least 100 Democrat super-voter votes in that district.

Statewide Judge Races:

--Justice of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court: Max Baer - (D)
--Justice of the Pennsylvania Superior Court: Jack Panella - (D)
(Top vote getter)

Lehigh Valley Endorsements:

--Lehigh County Judge of the Common Pleas Court:
Jerry Snyder(D)
--Lehigh County Commissioner: Matthew T. Croslis (D),
Patricia K. Smith (D), Juliet L. Dowling (D)
--Lehigh County Sheriff: Ronald W. Rossi (D)
--Lehigh County Coroner: Scott M. Grim (D)
--Lehigh County Clerk of Courts: Andrea Naugle (D)
--Magisterial District 31-1-01 Patti Engler (R)
--Magisterial District 31-2-01 Karen C. Devine (D)
--Allentown City Council: Martin Velazquez (D), Will Power(D)
--Allentown City Controller: Frank J. Concannon (D)
--Bethlehem Treasurer: Kaija Siftar (D)
--Allentown School Director 4 year: Robert E. Smith Jr. (R),
Charles Versaggi (R)
--Allentown Area School Director 2 year: Andrew J. Weiss (D/R)
--Bethlehem Area School Director: Joseph Craig (D/R)
--East Penn School Director: John F. Belin (D/R)
--Northampton District Attorney: John Morganelli (D)
--Northampton County Council - District T 3: Michael Corriere(D)
--Northampton County Council District 4: Charles Dertinger (D)
--Bethlehem Area School Director: Joseph Craig (D/R)
--Easton City Council: Carol Hefley (D)

THEATRE OUTLET ART SHOW

The Theatre Outlet presents the innovative, colorful illustrations of Lehigh Valley artist Wendy Barkan. Barkan's new show runs June 5 through June 22. The opening Artist's Reception will be Saturday, June 7, 4:00pm -- 7:00pm in the Gallery.

FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.



LIZ OUT LOUD 7

COMPARED TO WHERE?

By Liz Bradbury

Here's a true story, picture this....Trish and I go to our polling place on Primary day. We are greeted by a Transgender Ward Captain who is standing at the door. Though she does not always dress as a woman, she is at this time. We exchange greetings and then she goes back to chatting with the other poll workers at her ward's table. By the way, this openly Transgender person was elected by voters as Ward Captain in her ward.

Trish and I proceed to the other side of the room where the table for our ward is. We greet our poll workers. Since we are super-voters (we vote in every election as every GLBTA person should), they greet us in a neighborly way. It happens that at our poll, two of the official workers are a retired Republican married couple, but of course they must be non-partisan while working at the polls.

As I wait for Trish to finish voting, one of the couple chats with me. She knows we are gay activists. She says, "I thought what Santorum said was just awful. I think there should have been much more backlash against him. It was really wrong." I, of course, agree,

As we say, "so long until next time," to all the poll workers, we hear one of them causally, yet loudly, chatting with the Transgender ward captain about the merits of the Stonewall. I am not sure, but I don't think this guy is gay. End of story.

A recent Gallop poll indicates that more than half of Americans believe there should be some kind of legal recognition of same-sex relationships, this was up from 42% just last year. 75% of the US is far more conservative than the LV.

While I was interviewing some of the Judicial Candidates for the PA-GALA Candidate Guide, (we try to talk to all local candidates we endorse to be sure they understand the issues and are answering honestly), I was amused at those who felt they had to tell me just how conservative it is in this area. For one thing, do they think I don't know exactly how conservative it is here? And for another, it's not that conservative here. I always ask them, "Compared to where?" Compared to San Francisco, or Southern Vermont or most college towns? Yeah, those places are more liberal. But we are way less conservative compared to Scranton, or Erie, or Northern Bucks County or Ohio or Utah or most of the South including almost all of Florida or most of the rest of the country.

The phrase "all politics is local" is very very true. If we want to make pro-GLBT change in the Lehigh Valley, we have to continue to work locally. Did you see how few people voted in the Easton Mayor election? Less than 2300 people in a city of 40,000. That's probably less than the entire GLBTA population of Easton. It is pretty obvious that a GLBT block vote could win this election for either of the Mayoral candidates.

In that race, Mittman, the Republican, has said in his PA-GALA questionnaire that he supports the idea of an anti-discrimination ordinance. Corpora, the Democrat nominee, did not answer a questionnaire. Now he has nothing to lose and everything to gain by supporting an ordinance. Grassroots Easton GLBTA residents will have to work on him. This time next year, there could be equal rights in Easton. But it depends on you.

Be out and proud, work for equal rights and vote. Don't waste time insisting that this area is too conservative for more positive change.

SAFE SPACE & SPECTRUM AT LEHIGH

Since the fall semester, students, faculty and staff have joined in over 20 Safe Space events including discussions, panels, movie night, parties and guest speakers... not to mention the events hosted by the newly formed GLBT student group SPECTRUM!

Cecilia Stanton, Assistant Dean of Multicultural Affairs at Lehigh University, who worked with students to organize these groups, has graduated from her Ph.D program and is now moving out of the area. Cecilia did an excellent job in getting things going at Lehigh. Best wishes for the future and let's hope Lehigh will continue with the good work.

TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan®

AVOWED HETEROSEXUALS

When asked at a news conference if he were gay, U. S. Congressman Mark Foley, R-Fla. responded, "There are certain things we shouldn't discuss in public." Sub text : This guy is gay. Why? Because heterosexuals never deny their sexual orientation.

Gay people are critically aware that most heterosexual people talk about their sexual orientation in public all the time. Political candidates and elected officials are no exception. So, just to test this theory, I reviewed the unsolicited glossy paid political advertising mailers I received from candidates in the 2003 Lehigh County Primary Election. Here are the references to sexual orientation quoted directly from those flyers.

Jim Anthony for Judge (R)- Under photo of Anthony with his wife and four children - "Jim Anthony's values are shaped every day by his responsibilities as a husband and the father of a growing family."

Mark Bernstein for (State) Superior Court Judge (D)- Listed under photo of Bernstein and his wife - "Family: Married 33 years to Linda Bernstein. Raised three sons - David, Joseph and William."

Mary J. B. Eidelman for Judge (R) - Next to a picture of Eidelman with her husband and two sons - "...These are the same virtues my husband, Ed, and I have tried to instill in our children."

Patti Engler for District Justice (R) - "Married to Brian R. Engler, Sr. Two children."

Elsbeth Haymon for Allentown School Board (R) - "Married to Steve Haymon. Their son Sam attends William Allen High School."

Brian Johnson for Judge (R) - Next to photo of Johnson with his wife and four children - "Brian with his wife Kathleen (McGorry) and children - Sarah, Emily, Matthew & Brandon."

Gina Kormanik for Allentown School Board (R) - "Parent in Allentown School District."

John Pressmann for District Justice (D) - "family: Husband of the former Deborah Couto, a nurse at Sacred Heart Hospital. Father of three children - Sean 23, Laura 20, and Daniel 17."

Jerry Snyder for Judge (D) - Above photo of Snyder and his family - "After raising two children, Erin Brubaker, 31, and Christopher, 20, Jerry still lives in Allentown with his wife, Diane, and their son, Jerry is also the grandfather of Ryan Brubaker, 9 months."

Kelly Waldron for Judge (D) - Prominent photo of self clearly showing left hand with wide gold band.

Charlie Versaggi for Allentown School Board (R) - No reference to sexual orientation in flyer.

Of these eleven candidates, eight expressly noted their sexual orientation. Of the remaining three candidates, one merely stated she was a parent, one displayed a photo clearly showing a gold band on her left hand, and one, and only one candidate made absolutely no reference, written or pictorial, flaunting sexual orientation. That candidate, by the way, is openly gay.

The questionnaire PA-GALA sends to school board candidates asks, "Should a teacher be permitted to tell students that he or she is gay or lesbian?" About half the responses say there is never a reason for a teacher to reveal his or her sexual orientation to students. Yet, heterosexual candidates feel it is imperative to reveal their sexual orientation to voters. Does it matter? And if it does, why can't GLBT kids have out GLBT teachers as role models?

I couldn't help but note that one candidate's literature touted not only his wife and four children, but unabashedly mentioned his "growing family." This guy wants me to vote for him but he doesn't even know how to use birth control? Personally, having more than four kids in this economy isn't much of a selling point.



POP QUIZ

8

1. Tammy Lynn Michaels is about to marry _____.
A. Rita Mae Brown B. Ru Paul
C. Ellen DeGeneres D. Melissa Etheridge

2. Tatu is a lesbian _____.
A. coffee house chain. B. Russian teen pop duo.
C. perfume name. D. owned restaurant in Easton.

3. Ron Nyswanger, screenwriter of "Soldier's Girl" (about Barry Winchell) also wrote the screenplay for: A. The Color Purple B. Philadelphia
C. Fried Green Tomatoes D. Tu Mama

4. Troy Garity plays Barry Winchell in Soldier's Girl. Garity is the real life son of: A. Jane Fonda
B. Candice Bergen C. Sally Field D. Sissy Spacek

5. Barry Humphries (aka Dame Edna) does an animated transgender voice performance in:
A. Piglet's Big Adventure B. Finding Nemo
C. Jimmy Neutron D. Sponge Bob Square Pants

6. This year's "Freaky Friday" is a remake of the Jodie Foster version made in:
A. 1971 B. 1976 C. 1981 D. 1985

7. A lesbian story line is featured in D.C. Comic's:
A. Flash B. Gotham Central C. XMEN D. Batman

8. Which Democrat candidate for President has a lesbian daughter?: A. Dean B. Kerry
C. Mosely-Braun D. Gephardt

9. "Tipping the Velvet" is a lesbian story about:
A. the Victorian era. B. the Civil War.
C. World War II. D. 1700s New York.

10. In "Tipping the Velvet," the slang term for a lesbian is a: A. tom B. model C. ki D. rose

1.D 2.B 3.B 4.A 5.B 6.B 7.B 8.D 9.A 10.A

ON PRIDE DAY VFP REPORTERS WILL BE TAKING PHOTOS OF LV GLBTA COMMUNITY LEADERS FOR A WHO'S WHO PHOTO DIRECTORY THAT WILL APPEAR IN THE VFP EXPANDED JULY ISSUE. PLEASE HELP BY BEING SURE YOU HAVE YOUR PICTURE TAKEN.

TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING \$20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the LV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! At Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (lvfpish@aol.com).

QUOTE #1

"Partners (of military personnel) who are gay, become completely invisible, (they) can't even acknowledge what they're going through to anyone outside their closest circle of friends."

—Sharra Greer - Of Servicemember League Defense Network (SLDN)

QUOTE #2

I'm tired of denominations telling us that if we're celibate it is okay... Our sexuality is a gift from God, it is not a sin and not a disorder. How many times do we have to say this?

—Rev. Beth Goudy, from a recent MCC sermon

QUOTE #3

"The man-drag bit with Cameron and Drew had all the sex appeal of Trent Lott's toupee."

—Chrisanne Eastwood in the Advocate on the first "Charlie's Angels" movie & its lack of homoeroticism.

QUOTE #4

"Now that we are beginning to be actively acknowledged as a fabric in the American Tapestry, it's more important than ever that we reinforce our individual identity in America."

—Bruce Vilanch on the need for GLBT people to be honest about who we are.

QUOTE #5

"Why hasn't anybody done a gay-related children's movie? Well, there was that Christmas picture 'Prancer' that sounded promising, but it didn't really deliver. Come on, gay people have more children than Catholics these days." — Filmmaker John Waters, emceeing the 18th annual Independent Spirit Awards in March

QUOTE #6

Certainly not. I came out when sperm met egg.

— Salt Lake City's new openly lesbian minority affairs coordinator Blythe Noblemen, replying to critics who have suggested she came out in order to get the job.

QUOTE #7

"I wanted to shout, 'Who are you anyway? You give him an award for telling the truth and then boo him when he speaks it?'" Rosie O'Donnell on people booing Michael Moore at the Oscars

Distelfink® 6/03
by Ruby Zebu

"Everybody goes to Rick's."

Santorum says he has trouble with homosexual acts...

Well, maybe he's doing them wrong.

You must remember this, a kiss is just a kiss

*Thanks to an Internet pen pal for this simple yet amusing explanation.

The editorial columns and political cartoon that appear in Valley Free Press express the opinions of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or attitude of this publication. VFP makes no indication of the sexual orientation of persons, organizations, or businesses mentioned in any issue.